

Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insuring
of Houses from Loss by Fire
212 S. Fourth Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1457

HABS
PA,
51-PHILA,
141-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
PENNSYLVANIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) PHILADELPHIA CONTRIBUTIONSHIP FOR THE INSURING OF HOUSES FROM LOSS BY FIRE		HABS NO. PA-1457
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 212 S. Fourth Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1835-36	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Thomas U. Walter	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Formed by Benjamin Franklin in 1752, the Philadelphia Contributionship is the nation's oldest mutual fire insurance company. The building in which the company is housed is a Greek Revival office and dwelling structure, designed by the noted architect, Thomas U. Walter.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick with marble trim		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Measures approx. 50' (three-bay front) X 54'; four stories (originally three)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Front facade: pilastered double windows with stone sills on first and second floors; simple double windows with stone sills on third floor; elevated Cornithian entrance porch with entablature (a replacement); originally acretorian parapet on rooftop. (con't. on page 2)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Center hall plan. Greek Revival styling on interior trim. Baseboards. Moldings on cornices.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Mansard roof added and porch replaced 1866-67 by Collins and Autenreith, architects. Interior altered 1898 by Furness, Evans and Co., architects. Renovated and partially restored 1930, 1970.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Webster, Richard. <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE May 16, 1984

PHILADELPHIA CONTRIBUTIONSHIP
FOR THE INSURING OF HOUSES FROM
LOSS BY FIRE
HABS No. PA-1457 (page 2)

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (continued from page 1):

Rear facade: plainer design, with 6/6 double hung windows; rear entrance flush with wall.